

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8815

INFO: RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 3607

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, RO XH

SUBJ: ROMANIAN VIEW OF CEMA SESSION

1. ROMANIAN PARTY ECONOMIST WHO PARTICIPATED IN PREPARATIONS FOR CURRENT EAST BERLIN HEABR OF-GOVERNMENT CEMA SESSION TOLD POLCOUNS THAT IN ADDITION TO USUAL TRADE PLAN, SIX "PROGRAMS" ARE TO BE ADOPTED IN SUCH FIELDS AS MACHINE-BUILDING, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION, AND "EQUALIZATION."

2. SOURCE CLAIMED THE LATTER TWO ARE TO ROMANIA'S ADVANTAGE. FOOD-SHORT CEMA COUNTRIES WILL INVEST IN ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION AND IRRIGATION AND WILL BE REPAID IN PRODUCE ASKED WHETHER THIS DID NOT SEEM TO HIM AS
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LOOKING BACK A BIT TO KHRUSHCHEV'S SCHEMES FOR TURNING

ROMANIA INTO A CEMA BREADBASKET, SOURCE SAID IT HAS BEEN DAWNING ON GOR THAT FOOD CAN INCREASINGLY BE BIG FOREIGN TRADE GAINER, EVENV DIPLOMATIC WEAPON LIKE OIL, AND ROMANIA'S BEST ASSET -- ITS SOIL -- MUST BE BROUGHT TO PAY OFF BETTER. CEMA "PROGRAM" WAS ONE MEANS OF ACQUIRING INVESTMENT NEEDED FOR EXPANSION.

3. "EQUALIZATION" WAS STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION TOWARD NARROWING GAP BETWEEN ADVANCED AND DEVELOPING CEMA PARTNERS, AND WAS FRUIT OF ROMANIA'S INSISTENT ADVOCACY (SOURCE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT USSR HAD OBLIGATED ITSELF TO IN THIS REGARD).

4. SOURCE THOUGHT SOVIET PRESSURE FOR MORE CEMA INTEGRATION WAS CONSTANT FEATURE OF EE LANDSCAPE WITH WHICH GOR HAD TO LIVE, BUT HE SAW NO CRUNCHES COMING UP AT EAST BERLIN. MEETING ITSELF WAS SUPPOSED TO BE "PROTOCOLORY" ONLY, RATIFYING MATERIAL WORKED OUT EARLIER.

5. "PROGRAMS" IN FACT -- IN GOR'S VIEW -- WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF EASING OR TAKING EDGE OFF SOVIET INTEGRATION PRESSURE, "AS A PUNCTURED TIRE VENTS AIR," SOURCE SAID. ROMANIA HAD MADE CONCESSIONS BUT SO HAD SOVIETS AND OTHERS. SOURCE IMPLIED THAT SESSION THIS TIME WOULD BRING NO PARTICULAR DETERIORATION IN TERMS UNDER WHICH GOR ASSERTS ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHIN CEMA'S BARGAINING PROCESS.

6. COMMENT: WITHOUT FURTHER CLARIFICATION WE ARE NOT CLEAR HOW CEMA PLANNED INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE SERVES ROMANIAN ENDS. PRODUCE WHICH ROMANIANS WOULD HAVE TO DELIVER CAN, DESPITE OBSTACLES ERECTED BY COMMON MARKET, PRESENTLY BE SOLD IN WEST FOR HARD CURRENCY. MOREOVER, THERE ARE NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED WESTERN AGRO-INDUSTIRIAL FIRMS THAT WOULD MAKE SIMILAR INVESTMENTS AND ASSURE ROMANIANS OF OUTLETS FOR RESULTING PRODUCT.
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